

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A digital distribution and delivery system comprising a hybrid fiber coax network facilitating the provisioning and billing of a service ~~offered~~ available for purchase to a subscriber associated with a set top box subscribers, comprising:

a service application program implementing the service, said service application program comprising a price algorithm and metadata both associated with a service offering wherein the service application program is configured to receive a purchase request for the service offering from the set top box and compute a list price associated with the service offering using the price algorithm, said service application program configured to generate one or more billing messages indicating an identifier of the set top box, the service offering, the list price, and the metadata.

a billing system receiving said one or more billing messages, the billing system configured to generate an amount billed to the subscriber for the service offering wherein the amount billed comprises the list price and an additional amount, wherein the meta data is used by the billing system to determine the additional amount; and

a network controller configured to receive a provisioning message for provisioning the service offering for the set top box connected to the hybrid fiber coax network.

——— ~~at least one service, wherein the at least one service generates an offering marketed to a subscriber of the digital distribution system, and wherein the offering comprises metadata and a price algorithm; and~~

——— ~~a billing system in communication with said at least one service, wherein the billing system is capable of interpreting the metadata to generate a bill corresponding to the offering.~~

2. (currently amended) The digital distribution and delivery system of claim 1, wherein the a billing system maintains at least one table comprising tax-related information associated with the service offering that is used by the billing system to determine the additional amount.

3. (currently amended) The digital distribution and delivery system of claim 1, wherein the additional amount comprises a plurality of tax amounts and the metadata comprises a plurality of billing items which are used to compute a the plurality of tax amounts.~~and wherein said billing system identifies at least one of said billing items for inclusion in the metadata.~~

4. (currently amended) The digital distribution and delivery system of claim 1, further comprising a marketing component, wherein said marketing component provides marketing data associated with the service offering used by ~~to~~ said price algorithm to determine said list price.

5. (currently amended) The digital distribution and delivery systems of claim 1 further comprising:
a network controller in communication with the service application program to provision the set top box to receive digital content associated with the requested service offering. The digital delivery system of claim 1, wherein said price algorithm computes an offering price for the offering.

6. (currently amended) The digital distribution and delivery system of claim 1, ~~further comprising a wherein the network controller provisions the set top box to receive said service offering.~~ in communication with said at least one service, for provisioning the offering to a set top box.

7. (currently amended) The digital distribution and delivery system of claim 6, wherein said network controller is capable of receiving a command from the service application program to provision the set top box. ~~in indirect communication with said billing system.~~

8. -11. (Canceled)

12. (currently amended) A method of facilitating the provisioning and billing of a service for a subscriber in a digital distribution and delivery system comprising a hybrid fiber coax network, comprising the steps of:

receiving at a service application program executing in the digital distribution and delivery system, a purchase request for a service offering comprising an indication of the service offering from a set top box connected to said hybrid fiber coax network, said service application program comprising a pricing algorithm and meta data both associated with the service offering;
ascertaining an identification of the set top box making the purchase request as indicated in the purchase request;

processing the purchase request at the service application program using a pricing algorithm associated with the service offering to determine a list price of the service offering;
providing the identification of the set top box, the indication of the service offering, the list price, and the meta data to a billing system, wherein the billing system calculates a charge for the service offering for the subscriber associated with the set top box, wherein the charge comprises the list price and an additional amount; and

providing a provisioning message to a network controller provisioning the service offering for the set top box connected to the hybrid fiber coax network,

generating an offering representing an item for purchase from the service,
comprising:

querying a billing system to determine billing related metadata
interpretable by said billing system; and

creating said offering, wherein said offering comprises metadata
corresponding to said billing related metadata identified by said billing
system; and

forwarding said metadata to said billing system such that said billing system can
generate a bill for said offering based upon said metadata.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:
generating a bill for said subscriber at said billing system for said service offering, said
bill indicating the charge wherein the charge comprises said additional amount that is calculated
using based upon said metadata.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein calculating said charge
generating a bill for said service offering based upon using said metadata comprises accessing at
least one tax related table stored in said billing system to determine at least one tax taxes
associated with said service offering.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:
provisioning said service offering to in the set top box by generating a second
provisioning message conveyed over the hybrid fiber coax network from the network controller
to the set top box. subscriber of said digital delivery system, wherein said provisioning is
implemented by said service.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said provisioning further
comprises further comprising the steps of:
determining in said billing system whether said subscriber is authorized to receive said
service offering; [[,]] and
providing from said billing system to said service application program an indication that
said subscriber is authorized to receive said service offering. wherein said determination is
executed by said billing system.

Appl. No.: 10/054,719
Amdt. dated April 28, 2008
Reply to Office Action of November 27, 2007

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:
~~wherein provisioning said offering includes~~ instructing ~~a~~ the network controller to
distribute content associated with said offering to said set top box.